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[2016.02.28-03.06 Flint Michigan clips.xlsx](#)
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Subject: Flint Readout 03/03/16

Feds to expand Medicaid for Flint kids, expectant moms

By Melissa Nann Burke, Detroit News 03/03/16 9:29 PM

Federal officials say they will expand Medicaid coverage for Flint families to make additional health care and other services available to thousands of children up to age 21, as well as pregnant women, who have received water from the city's lead-contaminated system. "Expanding Medicaid coverage to tens of thousands of expectant mothers and youth means the most vulnerable citizens served by the Flint water supply can now be connected to a wide range of needed health and developmental services, including lead-

blood level monitoring and behavioral health services,” Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell said in a statement.

Feds expand Medicaid for Flint women and children

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 03/03/16 7:13 PM

The Obama administration approved a waiver Thursday that will immediately allow thousands of pregnant women and children up to age 21 in Flint to receive Medicaid coverage for the next five years in response to the high levels of lead detected in the city's tap water.

Feds approve Medicaid expansion in Flint to assist with city's water crisis

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 5:00 PM

The federal government has approved Michigan's request to expand Medicaid eligibility in Flint. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says pregnant women and people under 21 in Flint are now eligible for the expanded coverage.

Pregnant women, kids affected by Flint water crisis covered under Medicaid waiver

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 03/03/16 4:30 PM

Medicaid coverage will be available in Flint to cover children up to 21-years-old and pregnant women as part of the ongoing effort to help people affected by the city's water crisis. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved the state's waiver, which was submitted on Feb. 14 to provide short-and long-term health support, Gov. Rick Snyder announced on Thursday, March 3.

Feds approve Governor Snyder's request to expand Medicaid in Flint

By WILX NBC 10 03/03/16 2:50 PM

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the state of Michigan's 1115 demonstration to extend Medicaid coverage and services to Flint residents impacted by the lead exposure. In recognition of the public health crisis in Flint, it is a top priority for the

administration and for the department to ensure that all children and pregnant women exposed to lead in their water in Flint have access to the services they need.

Flint children and pregnant women will be eligible for expanded Medicaid coverage

By WWMT West Michigan 03/03/16

Medicaid coverage will be made available in Flint to cover children up to age 21 and pregnant women according to Governor Rick Snyder. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have approved a waiver request from Michigan to provide short- and long-term health care support. Approval of the waiver request means Michigan's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance program services will be available to approximately 15,000 residents who were served by the Flint water system.

15,000 Flint children exposed to lead will get special Medicaid coverage

By Lenny Bernstein, Washington Post 03/03/16 2:55 PM

The Obama administration announced Thursday that it would extend Medicaid coverage to 15,000 children and pregnant women in Flint, Mich., affected by lead that has poisoned their tap water. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also said that another 30,000 current Medicaid recipients in the city would be eligible for additional services under a five-year waiver from rules that govern the program.

Michigan: Medicaid Is Extended to 15,000 Exposed to Lead in Flint

By Abby Goodnough, New York Times 03/03/16

The Obama administration approved Michigan's request to extend Medicaid coverage to about 15,000 more children and pregnant women in Flint, where the water supply has been contaminated with lead. Children and pregnant women who were exposed to Flint water in their homes, workplaces, schools or day care facilities will be eligible for free health care if their household incomes do not exceed 400 percent of the poverty level, or about \$97,000 for a family of four.

Feds to expand Medicaid coverage in Flint

By Sarah Ferris, The Hill 03/03/16 2:18 PM

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced Thursday it will expand Medicaid coverage to about 15,000 low-income residents of Flint, Mich., amid the city's ongoing water crisis. "It is a top priority for the administration and for the department to ensure that all children and pregnant women exposed to lead in their water in Flint have access to the services they need," HHS wrote in a statement.

Congressional leaders to storm Flint to talk to residents about water crisis

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 03/03/16 8:02 PM

Congressman Dan Kildee is bringing 25 of his colleagues to Flint to tour the city and meet with residents to talk about Flint's water crisis at Grace Emanuel Church in Flint. Kildee, who has been vocal about concerns over the crisis, will lead the congressional delegation on Friday March 4. This is the third congressional visit to Flint. Visitors include House Leader Nancy Pelosi, Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn and leaders from the Congressional Black Caucus and the Progressive Caucus.

Pelosi, House Democrats to Travel to Flint on Fact-Finding Mission

By ABC News 03/02/16 7:54 PM

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-California, and about two dozen House Democrats will travel to Flint, Michigan, later this week to meet with victims of the city's ongoing water crisis. The visit comes ahead of the Democratic presidential debate in Flint on Sunday between Sen. Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, the latter of whom has made the plight of Flint's residents a focus of her primary campaign. "We're going to continue to beat the drums to bring awareness to this," said Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-Michigan, of the Democrats' focus on the crisis.

Protesters confront GOP debate-goers in Detroit

By Sarah Cwiek, Michigan Radio 03/03/16 11:43 PM

Chanting everything from "Flint lives matter!" to "Nazi scum, off our streets!", a range of protesters confronted Republican presidential debate-goers in the snow outside Detroit's

Fox Theater Thursday night. Some wanted the presidential hopefuls to feel the urgency of Flint's water crisis—and tackle it on the campaign trail.

UM-Flint hosts CNN on campus for Democratic presidential debate coverage

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/03/16 5:40 PM

The quiet rule is being silenced over the next few days at the Frances Willson Library on the University of Michigan-Flint campus in a ramp up to the March 6 Democratic presidential debate. Crews from CNN were busy Thursday afternoon transforming a portion of the library into a news desk, where live broadcasts are set to begin Friday, March 4 ahead of the debate by the cable news outlet at The Whiting Auditorium in partnership with MLive and The Flint Journal.

AT DEBATE, GOP CANDIDATES FACE QUESTIONS ON FLINT WATER CRISIS

By Michele Gorman, Newsweek 03/03/16 2:23 PM

On Thursday night, four of the Republican presidential candidates faced off at their 11th debate, this time in Detroit—which is about 70 miles from where residents are dealing with the ongoing lead-laced water crisis in Flint, Michigan. The contamination stems from a decision in 2014 to switch Flint's source of water for drinking and other purposes from Detroit's system to the Flint River—to cut costs—without accompanying treatments for the higher lead levels. After only a month, residents in the city complained about their water looking, smelling and tasting strange.

Flint's Water Crisis Will Take Center Stage at Both Democratic and Republican Debates in Michigan

By Matt Smith, VICE 03/03/16 1:50 PM

The US presidential contests are moving to snowy Michigan after the Southern-dominated contests of Super Tuesday, and the water crisis in Flint is likely to be front and center. The remaining Republican contenders face off in a Detroit debate tonight, while Democrats debate Sunday in Flint itself. The city's lead-laced water has become a black eye for Michigan's business-minded GOP governor, Rick Snyder, and a poster child for regulatory failure. So many in the state are hoping to hear some answers — if not about how to fix Flint itself, then how to prevent future Flints.

Kasich calls Michigan Democrat to discuss Flint crisis

By David Henry, The Hill 03/03/16 11:25 AM

Republican presidential candidate John Kasich talked with Rep. Dan Kildee on Wednesday to discuss possible solutions to the water crisis in Flint, Mich., the Michigan Democrat said Thursday. "He just wanted to have a better understanding of what I thought the solution needed to look like, and I encouraged him to speak up and be helpful," said Kildee, a Flint native who represents the city in the House.

LeAnne Walter's Law Suit

The Latest: Flint Mother Files Lawsuit Over Lead Crisis

By AP for ABC News 03/03/16 8:11 PM

A mother who testified on Capitol Hill about Flint's lead-contaminated water crisis has filed a lawsuit against government officials and corporate entities. The Flint Journal reports LeAnne Walters' suit was filed Thursday in Genesee County Circuit Court. Those named include firms hired to evaluate the city's water services as well Flint's former public utilities director, a former Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokesman and the state's chief medical executive.

Flint mother at center of lead water crisis files lawsuit

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 03/03/16 6:27 PM

The Flint mother who told federal lawmakers her house was "ground zero" for lead-contaminated water has filed a lawsuit against those she says are responsible for poisoning her children. The lawsuit, filed Thursday, March 3, in Genesee Circuit Court by LeeAnne Walters, names multiple corporate entities and three current and former government employees for their role in the city's water crisis.

Gov. Rick Snyder hires outside attorneys in wake of Flint water crisis

By Brad Devereaux, MLIVE 03/03/16 10:27 PM

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's Office hired two attorneys from private law firms as legal counsel to assist in the wake of the Flint water crisis, according to a spokesman. One of the attorneys is "complementing the work underway" by the Michigan Attorney General's Office, and another is working with documents being released to the public, spokesman for the governor's office Ari Adler confirmed Thursday, March 3.

Michigan Governor Hires Lawyers for Flint Water Issues

By AP for ABC News 03/03/16 8:48 PM

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has hired two outside lawyers at state expense to assist with civil representation and to search and process emails and other records connected to Flint's lead-tainted water crisis, his office said Thursday. The two lawyers have each been awarded a contract worth \$249,000 through Dec. 31, Snyder spokesman Ari Adler confirmed. That's just below the \$250,000 threshold that would require approval from a state board that meets in public, the Detroit Free Press reported.

Michigan governor issues appeal over Flint funds denial

By Reuters 03/03/16 4:28 PM

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder has urged federal officials to reconsider their denial for funds to help deal with the crisis caused by lead-contaminated water in the city of Flint, his office said on Thursday. The contamination and the state's long delay in addressing the problem have sparked outrage and drawn attention from U.S. presidential candidates. In the latest appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Snyder is requesting money to pay for food, water and other essential needs; the removal of health and safety hazards; activation of emergency operations centers; measures to avoid further damage; and homeowners' repairs not covered by insurance.

Snyder hires outside legal counsel related to Flint water crisis

By Lindsay Vanhulle, Crain's Detroit Business 03/02/16 3:47 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder has hired outside attorneys to represent him in litigation stemming from the ongoing lead water crisis in Flint, his office confirmed. Eugene Driker, a member with Detroit-based Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker PLLC, will assist with civil representation in addition to the state attorney general's office, Snyder spokesman Ari Adler told Crain's in an email.

LIVE BLOG: Snyder Reiterates He's Not Resigning Over Flint Water Crisis

By Rick Snyder, CBS Detroit 03/02/16 2:51 PM

A spokesman for Gov. Rick Snyder says the Republican is "fully committed" to remaining in office and a top Democrat's call for Snyder to resign over Flint's water crisis is "unfortunate." Ari Adler said Wednesday that House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (GREYE-muhl) "chose to focus his efforts on a politically charged press conference" instead of attending a briefing with staff from the governor's office on addressing the Flint emergency.

Snyder in FEMA appeal: Flint costs to top \$140 million

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 03/03/16 2:15 PM

The cost of the Flint drinking water crisis exceeds \$140 million and is growing, Gov. Rick Snyder said in an appeal filed Thursday with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as he seeks more federal funds and other resources to assist with the state response to the public health and infrastructure emergency.

Gov. Snyder retains outside attorneys over Flint water

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 03/03/16 12:11 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder has hired two outside attorneys in connection with the Flint drinking water crisis, including a criminal defense attorney retained to serve as "investigatory counsel," a Snyder spokesman confirmed Thursday. Eugene Driker, a civil defense attorney, and Brian Lennon, a criminal defense attorney, were each awarded a contract worth \$249,000 through Dec. 31, after which those contracts can be extended, Snyder spokesman Ari Adler told the Free Press.

Snyder launches 2nd appeal for federal money to replace Flint water pipes

By Molly Young, MLIVE 03/03/16 2:39 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder is seeking federal funding that could help Flint residents repair faulty pipes and financially support distribution of food, water and other needs in the city. Snyder's request to President Obama for a major disaster declaration was denied Jan. 16. He was seeking access to money for individual households and financial support for ongoing

distribution efforts in the city. Snyder appealed the decision, and the appeal was denied on Jan. 22.

Snyder asks FEMA to reconsider denial for Flint funding

By Melissa Nann Burke, Detroit News 03/03/16 10:05 AM

Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reconsider his request for more federal funding and resources to assist the beleaguered city. The agency had denied Snyder's original request to declare a major disaster in late January. His initial inquiry to the Obama administration requested \$96 million in disaster relief.

Politics

The Senator Holding Flint Aid Hostage

By Tim Mak, The Daily Beast 03/02/16 9:00 PM

As Flint, Michigan, deals with the effects of utter government failure, Sen. Mike Lee is secretly preventing them from receiving assistance from the federal government—all on a technicality.

House Speaker says no more supplementals in Flint water crisis until October

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 03/02/16 7:29 PM

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver is "shocked" by the news that House Speaker Kevin Cotter doesn't plan to take up any further supplementals in regards to the city's water crisis. On Wednesday, March 2 Cotter, R-Mount Pleasant, said he doesn't plan to take up any more supplementals for the Flint water crisis, according to a report by Gongwer, a subscription-based insider capitol newsletter. He went on to say other resources for the city should be considered during the overall budget process.

Two senators including Lee delay review of Flint bill

By Melissa Nann Burke, Detroit News 03/03/16 6:55 PM

A couple of U.S. senators including Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah continue to delay

review of a \$220 million Flint-inspired bill, pushing a vote on the measure into next week. Among Lee's problems with the legislation are that it didn't go through the Senate's ordinary procedure, and the funds designated to pay for the legislation are repurposed from a stimulus appropriation, according to a Senate staffer familiar with the deliberations.

Flint, MI: Head Start to expand to help children and families exposed to lead in the city's water supply

By Outbreak News Today-posted Press Release from HHS 03/02/16

HHS press release

Flint water crisis: Families bear scars from 'manmade disaster'

By Mallory Simon & Sara Sidner, CNN 03/03/16 11:26 AM

Wakes had another miscarriage while in her second trimester. Returning from the hospital devastated, she opened a piece of mail that stopped her in her tracks. "I see something from the city of Flint saying that pregnant women and people 55 and over should not be drinking this water," Wakes said. "I was like are you serious, and I'm just coming home to losing my babies? And now just, it could have been the water that did this?"

The Doctor Who Made A Difference In Flint, Michigan

By Robert Pearl, Forbes 03/03/16 1:00 PM

Flint, Michigan, symbolizes political and bureaucratic indifference at best, and incompetence at worst. The events there reflect what is wrong and what is right with today's U.S. healthcare system. The impact on thousands of children demonstrates the terrible consequences that can happen from a failure in public health. Understanding what happened in Flint opens a window into addressing the healthcare disparities that continue to beset our nation.

Donations & Aid

Kroger asks customers to help support flint children exposed to lead with coin box

contributions

By Burton View 03/03/16

People across the country are concerned about the welfare of children exposed to lead during Flint's water crisis. Kroger customers can help meet the children's short- and long-term needs by contributing to coin boxes located at cash registers in Michigan Kroger stores through March 26. Coin box donations will be combined with a \$25,000 grant committed from Kroger's Columbus Foundation to increase the fund's balance. Kroger will present 100 percent of the money collected to the Flint Child Health & Development Fund, which supports delivery of critical public health, medical and community-based services and interventions that address issues experienced by Flint children exposed to lead. Newborns and children up to six years old are most vulnerable and likely to have ongoing needs.

Houston project on the move to support victims in Flint water crisis

By Click 2 Houston 03/02/16 6:09 PM

Houstonians continue to show their support for the people in Flint, Michigan. The Black Heritage Society has spearheaded the "100,000 Cases for Flint" initiative, which aims to support Flint residents during its water crisis. The organization has collaborated with Houston Fire Department, Houston Food Bank, Ambassadors for Homeless Veterans and several other Houston organizations. On Wednesday, trucks rolled out with water and other supplies to the town. The trucks will make a brief stop in Dallas to pick up more supplies before heading to Flint.

State partners with Michigan Works! to hire Flint residents at water sites

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 03/02/16 4:58 PM

Flint residents will be hired to help with water distribution at clean water resource sites thanks to a partnership between the state and GST Michigan Works!, Gov. Rick Snyder announced Wednesday. The partnership will create 81 temporary, full-time, paid positions available for qualified Flint residents, according to a news release from the governor's office. Once hired, residents will fill leadership and general team member roles.

Opinions

Flint and environmental injustice

By Katherine England and Ronald White, The Hill 03/03/16 10:00 AM

Take Flint, Michigan. Families in this majority black community urged local authorities for months to address the filthy water coming from their taps. They experienced hair loss and skin rashes. But state officials ignored their pleas and assured the community that the water was safe, despite knowing full well that it was contaminated with lead. Now many of Flint's children have been poisoned by lead and face irreversible damage to their IQs and development.

Poisoned City: Flint and the Specter of Domestic Terrorism

By Henry A Giroux, Truthout 03/03/16

In the current age of free-market frenzy, privatization, commodification and deregulation, Americans are no longer bound by or interested in historical memory, connecting narratives or modes of thinking that allow them to translate private troubles into broader systemic considerations.

America's 'Lead Wars' Go Beyond Flint, Mich.: 'It's Now Really Everywhere'

By NPR 03/03/16 8:41 PM

Flint, Mich., isn't the only American city with a lead problem. Though the health crisis in Flint has highlighted the use of lead in water pipes, author David Rosner tells Fresh Air's Terry Gross that lead, which is a neurotoxin, can be found throughout the U.S. on walls, in soil and in the air. "The problem with lead is that it's now really everywhere, and we've created a terribly toxic environment in all sorts of ways," he says. In their book, *Lead Wars*, Rosner and co-author Gerald Markowitz describe the ways in which even small exposures can interfere with a child's brain development and cause lasting learning challenges.

Flint Is in the News, but Lead Poisoning Is Even Worse in Cleveland

By Michael Wines, New York Times 03/03/16

One hundred fifty miles northwest of here, the residents of Flint, Mich., are still reeling from the drinking water debacle that more than doubled the share of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood — to a peak, in mid-2014, of 7 percent of all children tested. Clevelanders can only sympathize. The comparable number here is 14.2 percent.

A Fix for Flint, and Other Cities Too

By Bloomberg View 03/03/16 8:00 AM

Congress has finally come up with a sensible way to help Flint, Michigan, clean up its drinking water -- and its plan could also benefit any American city that needs to get the lead out of its water supply. Flint's problem is a special emergency, but lead pipes are a persistent concern for many other cities. The Environmental Protection Agency doesn't have an exact count, but between 6 million and 11 million American homes still draw their water through lead pipes, some dating back to the 19th century.

What Went Wrong in Flint

By Monica Davey & Mitch Smith, New York Times 03/03/16

Thousands of pages of emails and other documents, two Congressional hearings and multiple criminal and administrative investigations have revealed at least a dozen instances in which city, state and federal officials made crucial decisions — or failed to take effective action — that contributed to the water crisis in Flint, Mich.

The Best Medicine for Flint -- and America

By Michael Brune, Huffington Post 03/03/16 4:51 PM

Starting today, the City of Flint is also supposed to begin replacing water service lines for residents at highest risk of lead poisoning. And with both political parties holding presidential debates in Michigan this week (the Republicans today in Detroit and the Democrats in Flint itself on Sunday), we can hope that what happened in Flint will get some additional national attention.

Flint Prepares to Be Left Behind Once More

By Anna Clark, New Republic 03/03/16

If there's one thing long-time Flint residents are accustomed to, it's being abandoned by powerful institutions. For decades, the city was one of the best places in the country for African Americans to build a middle class life. General Motors was founded here in 1908 and transformed the town into the nexus of the industry, bringing a middle-class renaissance to "Vehicle City." Flint's reputation for well-paid jobs drew tens of thousands of African

Americans from the South, where, despite segregation, they became one of the richest communities of color in the country. By the 1950s, with GM holding 54 percent of the market share, Flint residents had one of the highest per-capita incomes in the nation.

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